

Sunday (6/14/15)

Today was move-in day! We all arrived at different times, but we all got together for the first time for the welcome barbeque. The rooms are quite nice; they are like a hybrid between a hotel room and a freshman dorm, with a full size refrigerator and private bathroom. We got to mingle with the other academies and got to meet some pretty interesting people from all over the world. We bonded together in the cold waiting for our hotdogs and hamburgers to finish up on the grill. After eating, we all got together and were introduced to all our wonderful summer staffers, as well as Brad and Kristina. After that, we had our own SLSTP meeting in Saumalu's room, where we all got to talk more, learn more about the program, and received free swagbags! Afterwards we all headed to bed because we had to be up early for a long Monday.

Monday (6/15/15)

Monday started early at 6am and we all headed over to the badging office to get our picture taken and receive our badges. More than half of us were unhappy with our pictures, but there was nothing we could do about it. Oh well! We were off to grab team breakfast at Mega Bites, which made the start of the day much better! It gave us the chance to have some food and coffee to kick start the day. We then had a special SLSTP orientation where we had the opportunity to meet Jeff Smith and Jon Rask, two coordinators of our program and managers of our group project with GeneLab. We then had a safety orientation where we learned about all the rules and regulations we

were to abide by followed by a group picture! Afterwards, we grabbed a team lunch at Barcelona, where some of us made our own sandwiches, and others ordered burgers from the grill. We then all got the



opportunity to finally get into the lab and meet our mentors! A team dinner was in store for us at a local Thai restaurant, which was delicious! Then we made a trip to Safeway to get some groceries for the week, as the lodge is stocked with a kitchen and equipment available for us to use! It was a long day for all of us, and it was lights out early to prepare for another long day tomorrow.

Tuesday (6/16/15)

In the morning, we all got fingerprinted at various times, and reconvened at the ballroom for a very interesting talk by Ruth Globus about how Rodent Research in space has shaped throughout the ages, and will continue to do so. Free fruits and cake followed this talk, then we made a quick trip to Mega Bites to grab some lunch before going to grab our NASA bikes. As is clearly seen, orange beach cruisers are the bikes of choice for NASA, along with these snazzy noggin cushions.



Chris organized and drove us to an undisclosed dinner location, which turned out to be Crepevine, an amazing local restaurant in downtown Mountain View, with gelato for dessert.

Wednesday (6/17/15)

We met in the morning with the GeneLab team to learn more about what our group project had in store for us. Then it was off to grab a quick meal to-go meal from Mega Bites before we had a Brown Bag talk with Jon Rask! Jon detailed the 10 things he's learned in space-flight research from his career, which was inspirational as well as incredibly informative. However, right afterwards, we were in store for a fun round of safety boot camp, so we could be allowed to work in our labs. Bootcamp was a drag, but as always safety is first! Then it was time for Ames happy hour back at Mega Bites where we had the opportunity to network and meet more people on base!

Thursday (6/18/15)

Today we had a team building exercise in store for us, which took up the whole day. I'll choose to keep this a mystery for those who participate in consequent years, however I will say that this team-building project taught us all a lot about ourselves, as well as each other. It was extremely frustrating as well as tiring, however we persevered and came out successful in the end.



Friday (6/19/15)

Today was the first full lab day for all of us. Besides meeting with the GeneLab team again for a quick update, we all got to finally dive into our research and get a start on our projects. Later that day, those of that were able to went to downtown Mountain View to experience the nightlife, and the rest of us ended up going bowling nearby!